

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 428
By Odom

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bronson Ingram of
Nashville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Mr. Bronson Ingram of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, E. Bronson Ingram, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ingram Industries, Inc., Nashville's largest privately held company, was an astute business and civic leader who worked assiduously and with dedication to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, and by doing so contributed significantly to Tennessee's future growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Bronson Ingram served a two-year stint in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Princeton University in 1953, and then joined his father's Nashville-based business, Ingram Oil and Refining Co.; he would serve as Vice President and Treasurer of that concern from 1958 to 1961; and

WHEREAS, after his father's death in 1963, Mr. Ingram and his brother transformed this small business into Ingram Corp., which would become one of this nation's largest privately held companies with diverse holdings and annual revenues of approximately one billion dollars by 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram served with distinction as President of the Ingram Corporation from 1963 to 1978 when the brothers decided to divide their assets; Bronson Ingram then

founded his own Ingram Industries, Inc., with the book distribution and barge transportation businesses serving as the cornerstones of his new company; and

WHEREAS, on his own, Bronson Ingram proved himself to be an exceptionally astute businessman; Ingram Industries is now a huge, highly diversified corporation with 1993 revenues of \$6.1 billion and earnings in excess of \$150 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram devoted most of his energies to the Ingram Book Co., which began as a small textbook distributor to schools and libraries in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram quickly moved the company into textbook distribution in other states and into wholesaling general trade books to retail bookstores; the advent of microfiche resulted in Ingram Book Co.'s extensive growth during the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, as computers and videocassette players and recorders become a staple of American life, Ingram Book Co. aggressively pursued new markets and began distributing an entirely new line of products, including video games, videocassettes, computer software and books-on-tape, with the assistance of an experienced wholesale staff and a computer system that controlled inventory; and

WHEREAS, as book and non-book sales surged, Ingram leaped into another new distribution business, wholesaling computer hardware; the acquisition of a large, publicly-traded computer wholesaler helped to greatly enhance the company's competitiveness in the market; and

WHEREAS, today, Ingram Industries' distribution operation has extensive operations in computer hardware, computer software, books and videocassettes; Ingram is the leading independent distributor in each of those markets; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his incredible acumen in the world of commerce, Mr. Ingram was one of Tennessee's most influential and philanthropic private citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram graciously credited his parents with his strongly held convictions about the rewards of public service; he stated that his parents helped him see that volunteerism

is important, not as an obligation but as a source of pleasure and as a means by which individuals might accomplish important societal goals more efficiently than could government; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. Ingram modestly stated that his volunteer efforts were not unique, he believed strongly that more should be done by the business community, because results and benefits come at a fraction of the costs incurred when government becomes involved in society's needs and functions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram sought to impress upon the nation's future business leaders the necessity for private individuals to address the community's needs as a whole; he believed that public service should not be viewed as a penalty, but as a source of a tremendous amount of pleasure and satisfaction in a job well done; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his meritorious service as chairman of "The Campaign for Vanderbilt", the university's current \$300 million fundraising effort, Bronson Ingram also served with proficiency and probity as the President of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust from 1991 until his death, having joined the Board in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Bronson Ingram's generous spirit of volunteerism inspired him to make a major gift to "The Campaign for Vanderbilt", an endowed scholarship fund, known as the Ingram Scholars Program, that would require students to volunteer time while at Vanderbilt and to demonstrate their commitment to continuing their community service throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in announcing the establishment of the Ingram Scholars Program, Vanderbilt University Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt said, "Bronson Ingram himself is the kind of person we hope to attract with this scholarship program, an individual with the talent and determination to be successful in a very demanding career and still find time and energy to volunteer those skills to meet the special needs of the community"; and

WHEREAS, by means of the Ingram Scholars Program, Bronson Ingram demonstrated his commitment to assisting students who have the desire to pursue a career in business, and who have also demonstrated the commitment to perform sustained community service during their working years; and

WHEREAS, Bronson Ingram believed strongly that a person's community service should be a part of his or her ongoing business experience, and he most certainly was an exemplary person who achieved this worthy goal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram was also long active in INROADS, Inc., a national career development organization which prepares college-bound minority youth for professional careers in business and industry; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a former chairman and member of the advisory board of INROADS/Nashville, Inc., he was also a member and former chairman of the National Board of INROADS, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, he was a former chairman and present member of the board of directors for PENCIL Foundation, through which businesses give support to individual schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram also served his community and fellow citizens in numerous other civic leadership capacities, including meritorious service as a former president and member of the board of governors for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, former member of the board of trustees for the Cumberland Museum and Science Center, former vice-chairman of the Tennessee Industrial and Agricultural Development Committee, and former member of the board of directors for the Nashville Boys Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ingram also excelled as a manager of assets and leader of people by means of his remarkable service as a member of the board of trust for Montgomery Bell Academy and Chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority for Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the board of directors and served on several important committees in that capacity for the Weyerhaeuser Company, which his great-grandfather founded, and was a member of the board of directors for NationsBank Corporation, serving on the Asset Quality Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout a lifetime that was blessed with purpose and commitment, Bronson Ingram proved himself to be an astute businessman and dedicated civic leader of the utmost integrity, expertise and ingenuity and it is most fitting that we should pause to commemorate his indelible legacy of peerless public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Bronson Ingram, reflecting fondly upon his many significant contributions to the business community and civic life of Nashville and Tennessee; his excellence and expertise as a businessman, his peerless devotion to his community and to his fellow citizens as an outstanding civic leader, and his unswerving commitment to leading the examined life with courage and liberality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sorrow and condolences to Mr. Ingram's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Ingram's family, with this final resolving clause omitted from such copies.